

ZEROBEAT

12-96

Hampden County Radio Association

Our 51st ARRL Affiliated Year

Issue 4

December 1996

Next HCRA Meeting ANNUAL SOCIAL

Where: Feeding Hills Congregational Church

When: Friday, December 6, 1996

The annual H.C.R.A. Social and Show and Tell December meeting has arrived! Time to break out your latest homebrew project and bring it in while you chow down. Don't worry if it's not finished, we want to see it anyhow! Doors open at 7:00, we eat at 7:30'ish.

KNOCK! KNOCK! DO YOU KNOW WHO IS THERE??

It could be your local friendly law enforcement officer with a truck to pick up your radios....

NO KIDDING!!!!!!

A bill introduced into Congress by Senator Russell Feingold of Wisconsin would give an exception to state and local officials allowing them to go after CB operators using illegal linear amplifiers.

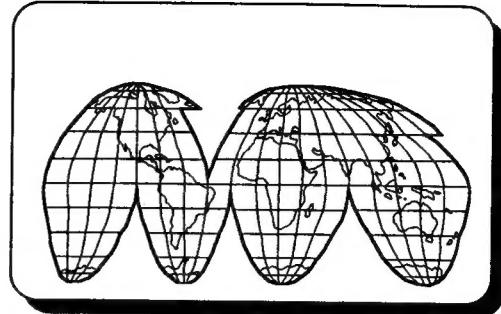
So what's the problem? Sounds like a good idea, right? Well..... how well can your local constabulary tell the difference between a neighborhood CB'er's linear amplifier and your brand new legal

limit Pilebuster 1500? Especially with an irate neighbor standing behind him pointing a finger at your pride and joy yelling, "I told you it was Mr. Amateur causing the problem all the time!". Or worse yet, the officer (along with our friendly local news personalities) shows up at your door, and you don't even own an amplifier! Trying to explain that you are a Federally licensed Amateur Radio operator, who is not only concerned about RFI because of our legal requirements, but probably even more importantly, concerned because you are an Amateur will probably fall on deaf ears.

And don't even try to explain the cause - CB'ers who use illegal power, or poorly designed consumer electronics.

So what to do? Jump up and down? Lock the door to your shack? Obviously not. The ARRL has already begun to work with Senator Feingold's staff to re-word the bill, without jeopardizing our Amateur operations. However it might be time to take a few minutes to write a letter to your local Congressman and Senators Kerry and Kennedy. I know, I know, sit down and write?? Well since you probably will be writing a few holiday cards, this shouldn't take too much time out from end of year activities. It is imperative to keep our Representatives aware of our presence and our concern> The Pioneer Valley has a rich history of service to the area by local hams, which today is the only thing we can count on to protect our *raison d'être* (very few of us can say we are a source of new technology - when was the last time you built a new 200MHz microprocessor?). And did you know Congressmen Olver and Neal have co-sponsored HR 3207, the Amateur Radio Volunteer Protection Act of 1996? So, our presence (at large, at least) is acknowledged. Let's keep our responsible image shining and well known by a couple of hundred reminders. Stress our public

service (use the word free - legislators love it) and emergency preparedness (you do have an alternate power supply other than your 2nd HT battery, don't you?). With the advent of proposals like the the Low Earth Orbit (LEO's) satellites that threaten our bands, and now, well meaning but ill written legislation which threatens confiscation of our ham equipment, NOW is the time to write. It doesn't have to be fancy, and definately should be tactful. Take a few minutes time tonight, in order to enjoy the many hours of fun with our hobby in the future.



Editor's Message

Happy Holidays! As always, I hope this issue of Z-Beat finds you and your friends and family well. It's hard to believe '96 is ending so soon! Let's hope '97 is a good year for all. The H.C.R.A. is going through changes (read: apathy). As the seasons change, so does participation in clubs and hobbies. Of course, if something is interesting, we find time to participate. So let us know what you would like to see for programs. I can be reached at the address at the end of TECH TIPS.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Don't Forget.....

December 6 -8 ARRL 160 METER CONTEST

December 7 - 8 TOPS Activity 3.5 MHz CW Contest

December 14 - 15 ARRL 10 Meter Contest

December 14 - 15 TARA RTTY Sprint '96

December 31 ARRL Straight Key Night

See December QST for information and rules for any of the above activities.

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If you know someone who would be an interesting speaker, and would be willing to talk to an attentive audience, again, let us know. In the past we have had topics which varied from home safety to 3 - D TV. The Board of Directors is always looking for a good program, but we could always use a hand (or at least a good suggestion).

Also you should make use of Z-Beat's free "FOR SALE OR SWAP" column, and TECH TIPS. Aside from always looking for items for sale or swap, we are always looking for ideas to help in everyday operating or building. The idea or operating procedure you take for granted as common knowledge may not be known to the rest of us, so..FESS UP!

So until next time,

73,

Barry, N1IJK

TECH TIPS

The ideas and suggestions contributed to **TECH TIPS** by readers have not been tested by **ZERO BEAT** or by the HCRA and no guarantee of operating success is implied. Always use your best judgment before modifying any electronic equipment or item from the manufacturer's original specifications, and always use all appropriate safety precautions. No responsibility is implied by **Zero Beat**, the H.C.R.A., the editors of **Zero Beat**, or the contributors. Send any tips or correspondence with your name, call, address, and telephone number (required for publication of your tip or response to a tip) to:

TECH TIPS
C/O Barry Mason, N1IJK
36 Kenwood Terrace
Springfield, MA. 01106

TECH TIP #3

Floating is not the same as flying!!! If your shack is on the second floor of a home or apartment complex, you may not be able to get a good ground for your rig. Also, newer homes use PVC piping instead of copper, so even if you are on the ground floor, the cold water pipe you may have hooked into may not be continuous to ground. If you are having problems getting a good ground, try making your connection directly to the water meter section of your service. If you are on a second or third floor (or higher), counterpoises can be used (at least 1 for each band you want to transmit on), or "artificial grounds" can be purchased. REMEMBER - COUNTERPOISES ARE PART OF THE ANTENNA SYSTEM - don't place them where you or anyone else can contact them!

WE'RE WAITING FOR YOU TO SEND #4 IN!

VOX POP

(Dedicated to newsworthy items hopefully without insulting anyone)

***** Ted Turner's network is now seen almost everywhere, but what we want to know is where is the real TBS??? ***** Greg, N1AEH doesn't need a modem, as he sends CW in excess of 38.8k already!! ***** By the way, all you EME'ers, please be careful if you plan on doing any transmitting on Christmas Eve... Santa is just as susceptable to RF as we are!!! *****

***** **EXTRA! EXTRA!** *****
SEND IN ANY CALL SIGN CHANGES
TO BARRY FOR PUBLICATION IN
ZERO BEAT !

FOR SALE OR SWAP

CONTACT BARRY TO LIST YOUR EQUIPMENT FREE IN THIS SECTION, AND CHECK BACK NEXT MONTH FOR WHAT MAY BE LISTED.

ON BEHALF OF THE EXECUTIVE
BOARD AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE H.C.R.A.,
WE EXTEND OUR BEST WISHES TO
ALL OF OUR MEMBERS FOR A
HAPPY, HEALTHY, HOLIDAY SEASON,
AND A
HEALTHY, PROSPEROUS
1997!

73!

DECEMBER MEETING - OUR ANNUAL SOCIAL AND SHOW&TELL

DECEMBER 6, 1996 - 7:30 p.m.

Editor: Barry M. Mason N1IJK

Hampden County Radio Association
P.O. Box 562
Agawam, MA. 01101-0562

Forwarding and address correction requested



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